

therethrough while interjecting the patient bed into said gap so as to permit substantially adjacent patient access along a side of the patient while the patient is positioned within the MRI image volume.

opening under the bed sized to pass the lower magnet pole 1 therethrough while interjecting the patient bed 33 into the gap so as to permit substantially adjacent patient access along a side of the patient while the patient is positioned within the MRI imaging volume. (Col. 3, lines 36-53).

15. A MRI system as in claim 14 wherein said movable patient transport comprises:

means for moving the patient bed in at least two dimensions with respect to said spaced-apart structures.

FIGURES 3 and 4. FIGURE 4 illustrates and Col. 3, lines 34-41 describe how the table portion 31 is movable along a first horizontal axis. FIGURE 4 illustrates and Col. 3, lines 42-53 describe how the patient platter 33 is capable of translational movement in two directions, as illustrated by arrows A and B in FIGURE 3.

16. A method for positioning a patient for MRI using an NMR polarizing magnet with a C-shaped cross-section, said method comprising:

FIGURE 6

placing said patient on a movable bed having an aperture in an undercarriage disposed below the bed;

The table portion 31 is slide out (Col. 3, l. 54-55); the patient is then placed on the platter 33 (Col. 3, l. 59-60); the rails or rollers (Col. 3, l. 38-40) inherently define an aperture in the undercarriage.

moving said bed into juxta-position with the open gap of the C-shaped magnet; and

The platter 33 is constrained to stay juxtaposed with the open gap of the C-shaped magnet.

moving said bed into said open gap while moving said aperture therebelow over a lower pole face of the magnet thus leaving unobstructed adjacent access to the patient along an entire patient body side while the patient is disposed within said gap.

The table portion 31 is slid back into the core arrangement to bring the platter 33 and hence the patient's body, to a position where it extends centrally through a gap between the pole pieces (Col. 3, l. 60-64).

17. A method as in claim 16 further comprising:

further adjusting the bed position within the gap along at least two dimensions with respect to said undercarriage after the bed has been located within the gap and the undercarriage has been positioned over the lower pole

FIGURES 3 and 4 illustrate and Col. 3, lines 34-53 describe the movement of the patient platter 33 along two orthogonal directions illustrated by arrows A and B in FIGURE 3.